9- point Action Plan in 2006. This includes measures such as review of BPL and AAY lists for exclusion of ineligible families and inclusion of eligible families, ensuring leakage free distribution by taking penal action against those found indulging in malpractices, involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in functioning of FPS, display of BPL and AAY lists at fair price shops, door step delivery of PDS commodities to fair price shops, etc. The Action Plan is under implementation in States and UTs since July 2006 and is being closely monitored by FPS level Vigilance Committees. As a result of this exercise, so far 14 States/UTs have reported deletion of 99.36 lakh bogus/ineligible cards since July, 2006.

The Government has taken various other measures to improve functioning of TPDS. A Revised Citizens' Charter has been issued and is being implemented since July, 2007. Monthly certification of delivery of allocated foodgrains to FPS and their distribution to ration card holders has been introduced from April, 2008. Training programmes for TPDS functionaries and awareness campaign for TPDS beneficiaries are being taken up. Computerization of TPDS operations has been initiated. Use of new technologies such as Global Positioning System to monitor movement of foodgrains under TPDS has been undertaken on a pilot basis. Policy guidelines have also been issued on distribution of wheat flour under the TPDS, so that the poor families are benefited. For increasing awareness on TPDS, publicity-cum-awareness campaign is also being taken up. The Government has given instructions to all State/UT Governments to take action as per law against persons found in possession of bogus or fake ration cards and the Government staff found responsible for issuing ration cards to ineligible persons.

In view of constant endeavour of Government to improve the PDS as mentioned above, there is no proposal to revise the PDS policy.

Amendment of Consumer Protection Act

59. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to facilitate and provide for online filing of cases before various forums under the Consumer Protection Act;

(b) if so, whether the Act is proposed to be amended; and

(c) the essential features of the proposed amendment along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Section 12 of the Consumer Protection Act will need amendment to provide for online filing of complaint.

Procurement of wheat in Madhya Pradesh

†60. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government is aware that procurement of wheat was stopped by the Civil Supplies Corporation and the Food Corporation of India by saying that there was not proper arrangement for storage of wheat in Malwa-Nimarh region and some other areas of Madhya Pradesh where there had been a good production of wheat due to which farmers had to sell wheat at cheaper rates to traders;

(b) if so, the officers responsible for the financial loss suffered by farmers;

(c) the action taken against the guilty officers; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to avoid the reoccurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) FCI has intimated that procurement of wheat was not stopped in the Malwa, Nimarh and other regions of Madhya Pradesh due to inadequate storage capacity or on any other grounds. FCI operated 194 centers for wheat procurement in RMS 2008-2009 in Malwa and Nimarh region of Madhya Pradesh and procured more than 3 lakh MT of wheat.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Rottening of foodgrains in godowns of FCI

†61. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to media reports about rottening of ten lakh tonne foodgrains in godowns;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that atleast Rs. 242 crore have been lost due to the rottening of foodgrains;

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether Government is formulating any scheme to save foodgrains from rottening in the godowns of Food Corporation of India (FCI); and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) No foodgrains had got rotten in godowns of FCI due to lack of preservation. However, about 10 lakh tons of damaged foodgrains had been accrued in the account of FCI over a period of last ten years from 1997-2007 and the same has been reflected in the media reports.

The accrual of damaged foodgrains is due to various reasons, such as, cyclones, floods and acceptance of below specifications stocks, Besides, some quantities of foodgrains had also

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.